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Department of State TELEGRAM

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UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL 939

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ACTION ARA-11

INFO OCT-01 SS-20 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 USIE-00
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INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
CINCSO

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 5/16/77
PER FDevine OFFICE ARA
FADRC FOI CASE NO. 630373 Rosfeldt

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1628

LIMDIS

BOGOTA FOR MEYER

CINCSO FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: MITRIONE/FLY KIDNAPPINGS--MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

1. AFTER CALL ON MRS. FLY WHO IS NOW LIVING WITH ANOTHER AMERICAN COUPLE AND WHO APPEARS TO BE HOLDING UP WELL, I MET WITH FONMIN PEIRANO FACIO AT 1900 HOURS LOCAL THIS EVENING (AUGUST 7).

2. I TOLD FONMIN THAT ARREST OF SEVERAL TOP MEMBERS OF MLN-TUPAMARO TERRORIST GROUP THIS AFTERNOON WAS NOTABLE VICTORY FOR GOU AND HOPEFULLY WOULD HELP IN RECOVERY KIDNAP VICTIMS. WITH ONLY FIVE HOURS REMAINING BEFORE EXPIRATION TUPAMARO DEADLINE, MY STAFF AND I HAD BEEN DISCUSSING VARIOUS IDEAS WHICH MIGHT HAVE SOME IMMEDIATE EFFECT TONIGHT. ONE OF THESE I WANTED TO SUGGEST FOR FONMIN'S CONSIDERATION--THAT GOU ANNOUNCE WILLINGNESS TO AMNESTY THOSE MLN MEMBERS NOW ACTUALLY HOLDING KIDNAP VICTIMS IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR SAFE RETURN. SUCH

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AN OFFER WOULD AVOID PROBLEM OF LIBERATING JAILED PRISONERS, WOULD HAVE LAUDABLE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL AND MIGHT BE ATTRACTIVE TO SOME TUPAMAROS NOW FACED WITH LOSS OF SEVERAL KEY LEADERS.

3. FONMIN SAID THIS IDEA ALREADY BEING CONSIDERED BY GOU, BUT THAT HE WOULD PASS IT ON AS SPECIFIC SUGGESTION FROM ME. SAID HE COULD NOT OF COURSE PROMISE WHETHER IT WOULD BE ACTED UPON BUT ASSURED ME IT WOULD BE CONSIDERED.

4. PEIRANO WENT ON TO SAY THAT GOU HAD SCORED NOTABLE SUCCESS TODAY AGAINST MLN, BUT EFFECT ON SAFETY OF KIDNAP VICTIMS WOULD BE ARGUED WITH EQUAL LOGIC AS BEING BETTER OR WROSE BECAUSE OF IT. WORSE BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE PANIC REACTION BY THOSE HOLDING VICTIMS; BETTER BECAUSE MLN MAY NOW BE UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO CARRY OUT ANY PLAN FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST VICTIMS IN ABSENCE KEY LEADERS. BUT WHATEVER THE ANALYSIS, HE WANTED TO ASSURE ME THAT GOU WAS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO RETURN MITRIONE AND FLY SAFELY.

5. I NOTED THAT PRESIDENT'S MEETING TODAY WITH VICE PRESIDENT AND SEVERAL POLITICAL LEADERS, HAD ENDED BEFORE ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUCCESSFUL POLICE ACTION AND ASKED HIM WHAT HAD BEEN THE FEELING ON THIS SITUATION WHEN MEETING CLOSED. FONMIN SAID MOST OF THOSE ATTENDING FELT OPTIMISTIC THAT MLN WOULD NOT KILL VICTIMS EVEN THOUGH GOU REFUSED TO ACCEDE TO RANSOM DEMANDS. SAIJEKIDNAPPING OF FLY THIS MORNING HAD BEEN INTERPROPED BY MAJORITY AS FURTHER INDICATION THAT MLN DID NOT INTEND MURDER.

6. FONMIN SAID HE HAD JUST SPOKEN TO BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR PINTO, WHO ALSO ENCOURAGED BY TODAY'S EVENTS, AND ASSURED HIM OF GOU'S INTENTION DONZALL POSSIBLE. PEIRANO SAID GOB HAD CONDUCTED ITSELF IN FRIENDLY AND CORRECT MANNER THROUGHOUT THE PAST WEEK AND INDICATED LETTER TO PRESIDENT PACHECO FROM GOB PRESIDENT MEDICI WHICH PINTO DELIVERED TODAY WAS BOTH WELL STATED AND RECEIVED. THOUGHT THAT GOB HAD NOW COME TO UNDERSTAND HOW IMPOSSIBLE WERE TUPAMAROS' RANSOM DEMANDS.

7. PEIRANO CLOSED BY SAYING THIS WOULD BE ANXIOUS EVENING BUT HE HOPEFUL THAT INTERROGATION OF MLN MEMBERS ARRESTED TODAY WOULD LEAD TO SPEEDY RECOVERY OF VICTIMS. SAID HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE AT ANY HOUR AND HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE SOON TALK AGAIN ON MORE PLEASANT SUBJECT.

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